



GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

SEPTEMBER 2017 VOLUME 8 ISSUE 9

INSIDE

- Why would we print that? – p. 2
- Letters on immigration – p. 2
- Navigating barriers – p. 3
- Arrell Coleman memories – p. 3
- Right to Write workshop – p. 4
- Photovoice to Groundcover – p. 5
- Common Cycle co-op – p. 6
- Boober Tours update – p. 8
- November elections – p. 8
- Puzzles – p. 9
- Poetry – p. 10
- Peach crumble – p. 12

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**Svea Gray:
the “Breakfast
Church Lady”**
– p. 7

Why would we print that?



by Susan Beckett
Publisher

We got immediate feedback from readers that the crimes-committed-by-undocumented-immigrants statistic in Lit Kurt's August response to my July editorial, "Totalitarian Impulses," was incorrect. That was my first reaction, too. In fact, prior to publication we challenged Lit on it and asked her to back it up with a source, which she did with an article from *The Hill*.

Some doubted that it was a credible source. However, the climate in our country suggests that it is credible – in that many people do believe it – so that is why we printed it.

GROUNDCOVER MISSION:

Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

Susan Beckett, Publisher
contact@groundcovernews.com

Andrew Nixon, Editor

Contributors

Paula Anderson
Ben Basset
Elizabeth Bauman
Martha Brunell
David KE Dodge
Elizabeth "Lit" Kurtz
Lisa Powers
Kevin Spangler
Chris Splash
Andrew Westphal

Letters to the Editor:
editor@groundcovernews.com

Story or Photo Submissions:
submissions@groundcovernews.com

Advertising:
contact@groundcovernews.com

www.groundcovernews.org

facebook.com/groundcover
423 S. 4th Ave, Ann Arbor
734-707-9210

There is no way to have a discussion of issues in which we can learn from each other if one side is always censoring the other. *The Hill* published multiple articles examining the assumptions underlying the conflicting claims on immigrant crime levels. They acknowledged that legal immigrants are more law-abiding than native-born Americans. And they pointed out that the typical undocumented immigrant commits multiple non-violent felonies by falsifying documents to obtain drivers' licenses, social security cards and green cards so they can work and avoid breaking other laws. It is an accepted fact that approximately 75 percent of undocumented immigrants fraudulently obtain Social Security cards with which they get jobs and pay taxes.

Another article in *The Hill*, by retired forensic criminologist Ron Martinelli, cited the U.S. Sentencing Commission

report that 75 percent of all defendants who were convicted and sentenced for federal drug-related crimes were undocumented immigrants. They also found that undocumented immigrants accounted for 17 percent of all drug trafficking sentences, one-third of all federal prison sentences and 22 to 37 percent of murders in the United States. These statistics are suspect – as are all concerning undocumented immigrants – because a substantial number of people who are in the country illegally live in the shadows and are not accurately counted in the census. The percentage who commit crimes can seem extremely high since entering the country illegally is considered a crime itself. Bias toward arresting brown people also affects the validity of the statistics.

One of Groundcover's roles is providing a platform for multiple voices, especially those of our vendors. There is quite

a diverse set of opinions, beliefs and values among our readers and vendors, too. We had a very lively discussion about the immigration article during our monthly paper review, with several vendors on each side of the issue and quite a few others listening carefully as each side explained the fallacies they perceived in the other's argument. In this issue we are publishing two letters on the subject that we received from readers.

There is a proliferation of studies and publications and it is possible to find one to back up nearly every position. It is incumbent on all of us to be discriminating readers – to question the facts presented to us and do our own searching to further understand the underlying assumptions and to verify or discredit them.

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Response to immigration editorial

Last month, Groundcover News ran a piece by Elizabeth "Lit" Kurtz claiming that "Despite some mainstream media reports, statistics show that illegal immigration too often leads to criminal activity."

Among Trump's most dangerous rhetoric has been the assertion that a correlation exists between illegal immigration and crime rates. Like much of Trump's dialogue, this statement has been fed to the public with enough false bravado to mask the lack of facts and figures to bolster the statement. Republican lawmakers have adopted this rhetoric into policies aimed at cutting funding from sanctuary cities – cities where

local authorities refuse to hand over undocumented immigrants to federal authorities for deportation.

However, an analysis of FBI crime data by Tom Wong, a professor of political science at UC San Diego, found that sanctuary cities and counties experience lower rates of all types of crime when compared to similar non-sanctuary cities. Wong reasons that sanctuary cities are safer because undocumented immigrants do not fear speaking to police and reporting crimes, thereby making the city safer. Two major law enforcement groups – the Major Cities Chiefs Associations and the International Association of Chiefs and Police – agree that local enforcement of

deportation and the undoing of sanctuary city laws would only lead to higher rates of crime.

There is no predictor for who commits crime – not one's citizenship status, nor the color of one's skin, nor one's country of birth. We now live in a society where we are told that it is acceptable to make assumptions about a person based off these superficial qualifiers. Now more than ever, we owe it to ourselves and one another to fight against these baseless assumptions with facts and to disavow the dangerous speech that threatens to tear this country even further apart.

Selena Catherine Alonzo

Immigration enforcement article: kudos

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to Elizabeth "Lit" Kurtz for her powerful article on immigration enforcement. I was especially struck by this statement: "*There is something about the unknown and unfamiliar that piques our sympathies more than what is present and obvious.*"

Many studies have been conducted on the deleterious effect of illegal immigration on the employment of African Americans without a college degree. Many of our citizens suffer in silence without achieving portrayal in sympathetic articles by the local media. Lit's article

bravely contradicts the prevailing opinions of Ann Arbor's cultural leaders and forcefully redirects our attention to the ongoing problem of homelessness. Bravo, Lit, and I look forward to reading more from you in the future.

Catherine Meza



Thank you, Maggie – navigating barriers with Gray Panthers



by Rev. Dr. Martha Brunell
Groundcover Contributor

Some of my favorite hours each month are spent with several writing groups that I facilitate. We use a spiritual and creative process that I call "Wild with Words." When we write, we begin with a prompt. That prompt could be a string of random words, a photograph, an object, an address, a question, a name – almost anything. Each time a group meets, we let our pens lead us on the page wherever they would go in response to a particular prompt.

I currently have four groups – two that meet in churches, one that gathers in a coffee house, and a fourth that is housed in a senior center. Recently, the coffee house group was seated at the end of a long table in Rockford, Ill. One of the day's prompts was a set of three bright-green whiffle balls stamped with the trademark of major league baseball.

I had used this prompt with a couple

Well-known former Ann Arbor business owner dies outside in his sleep

by Elizabeth "Lit" Kurtz
Groundcover Vendor #159

Members of the homeless community are mourning the second of two deaths this summer, each in its own way senseless and preventable. One, Groundcover vendor Mike Dion, died arguably as a result of a flawed mental health system; the second, Arrell Coleman, was a senior citizen whose death was undoubtedly hastened as a result of being homeless.

These deaths are a reminder that homelessness intersects with every facet of society and remains a humanitarian crisis that not only takes lives, but reduces the quality of life of those experiencing it.

One can easily quote statistics of mortality rates of this population, but they are just figures on a page. What gives immediacy to those numbers is speaking with a person a day before he died (as I did with Coleman), expressing the common concerns about warmth during the night, and walking away satisfied that all is well – not expecting

other groups the week before. Writers watched the bright green balls roll and bounce across the table before they put pen to page. In Rockford there was the possibility that moving balls would get beyond our reach, heading toward the other end of the long table, and so we set up a few barriers – a journal, a coffee cup or two, someone's purse – to keep the balls from straying too far.

Then one of the writers set a ball spinning. The spinning whiffle ball managed more than once to make its way through or around the barriers without colliding with a single one. It was beautiful to watch the smoothness of how it navigated its way to open space and possibility on the other side of the barriers. As its spinning motion was complete, it came to rest gently down the table. I was mesmerized by the energy the spin focused and the agility it offered the ball to manage what lay in its way. The ball reminded me of the grace of certain people who are able to so focus on what matters most that they can open a route to action, community, learning or a new sense of wholeness even when varied walls, fences or roadblocks would stop them.

to learn the next day that he died in his sleep that very night.

After his passing, I began to learn from friends that the man we affectionately called "Coleman" found it difficult to afford the medications required to treat his illness. He is the second person I know who was personally affected by this dilemma.

But the evidence and warning signs were clear. Being stuck on the streets while going through the regimen of dialysis treatments three times per week would raise alarm in a country con-

see ARRELL, page 11



Arrell Coleman, 1950–2017

Hours after I left the writing table, the potential of the spinning ball brought to mind my encounters with Maggie Kuhn 40 years ago. I was a young seminary then working in Boston with a neighborhood-based agency, Back Bay Aging Concerns Committee – Young and Old United. BBACC-YOU tackled local realities of aging and ageism.

A few years earlier, Maggie and five of her friends faced mandatory retirement from national religious and social work organizations. Like a spinning green whiffle ball unwilling to be contained by the barriers she faced, Maggie responded to unwanted retirement by bringing into being the Gray Panthers. I met Maggie in Washington, D.C. and in Boston as the Boston chapter of the Gray Panthers took shape.

Since the early 1970s the Gray Panthers has been a movement of the old and the young, often marginalized by the surrounding culture with its message that you are too young or too old for certain power and responsibility. This intergenerational movement or coalition has consistently advocated for social and economic justice across a spectrum

of perennial issues including peace, health care, jobs, housing, ageism, sexism, racism, LGBT experiences, media stereotypes and the environment. The Gray Panthers refuse blanket statements about people being too old or too young to be active and alert agents in their lives and in the lives of their communities.

Maggie encouraged us to "Leave safety behind. Put your body on the line. Stand before the people you fear and speak your mind – even if your voice shakes. When you least expect it, someone may actually listen to what you have to say. Well-aimed slingshots can topple giants."

These were the words of courage and determination that spun into the green of new life where it was most needed. Maggie's words and actions burst with an energy that found a path forward, refusing to be blocked or stopped. She made a huge impression on me when I was very young. Her witness and lively, graceful, spinning presence remains with me now as we face so much that is troubling, scary, unjust and life-denying.

Memories of Arrell Coleman

by Paula Anderson
Groundcover Vendor #157

Today makes one week since I lost one of the best bosses I have had. We worked together at the Ann Arbor Art Fair, Rolling Sculpture Car Show and Taste of Ann Arbor. I miss him dearly. I knew him for 40 years and now he is my guardian angel. He will always

stay in my heart. Rest in Peace, Arrell Coleman. Now you don't have to suffer from all those treatments. You are in a good place now and at peace.

Arrell Coleman was born on March 9, 1950, passed away on August 5, 2017 and was buried in Brentwood, Maryland.



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My writing workshop project – I’m compiling a book!



by Elizabeth
“Lit” Kurtz
Groundcover
Vendor #159

As we approach another school year, I am reflecting on the years that have passed since losing my job as a Detroit Public Schools teacher and slipping through all the social safety nets that would have kept me housed. Five years on, the trajectory of my life has changed, giving me an up-close-and-personal view of a different side of America.

Leaving Eastern Michigan teacher’s college and heading east as a single parent in 1981, degree and son in tow, I felt that I had accomplished all that it would take to keep my son and me safe and secure with a profession that I felt was recession-proof.

I would not have believed then that corruption in school districts would sweep the nation, including the district where I was employed. I would not have fathomed that my two former principals would land in prison and that I would be living as a homeless person, adding to the growing statistics of those who have fallen into this crisis.

I could not have imagined that the pension I had planned to take care of me during my senior years would be spent over just one winter while trying to survive in a hotel.

Yet here I am. Much of what has sustained me is writing for and selling Groundcover News, which is one of the international street newspapers designed to give those who have landed

on the streets a source of income and a voice.

The Groundcover News experience has allowed me to vent my feelings in the face of incredible public apathy and the corresponding lack of hope that comes from living homeless in America. It has given me an opportunity to chronicle much of my journey, including a shift in a political perspective that is much more conservative than I would ever have imagined.

So, I am excited about the upcoming writing project intended to combine these essays into a collection that will be published in a book bearing the name of one of the essays written. I am further excited that it gives voice to the much-underrepresented perspective of the street person.

This process would have been much more difficult were it not for the recent writer’s workshop under the direction of Madeline Diehl. Attending her classes allowed me to focus on publishing my book. Her model of healing through writing helps the writer to approach often painful topics through a method of meditation that makes the process less onerous.

Through this workshop I was also connected with writing coach and professional writer, Lisa Powers, who will be serving as my editor. Through her professional guidance, I expect to complete the book within the year.

To defray the costs created by the time needed to complete this project, pre-orders will be offered at a discounted price. Information about my upcoming book can be found at: <http://thirdworldinnorthamerica.weebly.com/out-here-pre-orders.html>.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Partial funding for the “Celebrating Our Right to Write” project was provided by a grant from The First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor’s Jackson Social Welfare Fund. **Other funding and in-kind donations** were provided by:

David Bachrach
Margaret Bachrach
John & Sharon (Strong) Broberg
Alice Diehl
Catherine McClary
Carol Murphy
Catherine Allen
Nicholas de Paul, AppleNicholas.com
Nikki and Ali Hussein, Hello Faz Pizza
Mary Ann Martin

Workshop and coaching staff:

Madeline Diehl, project director and lead facilitator
Hugh Shirato, MSW, co-facilitator
Lisa Powers
Anita Sherman

Project Partners:

Groundcover News (Susan Beckett, Founder and Publisher)
The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation (Rev. Joseph Summers, Pastor)
Bethlehem United Church of Christ

This project also would not have been possible without the **support and assistance** from the following people:

Margaret Bachrach
Joel Barson
Alissa Bleecker, MSW
Marilyn Churchill
Billy Joe & Adye Bel Evans
Dr. Rebecca Hatton, Ph.D.
Jennifer S. King, MSW
Catherine McClary
Amy McGovern
Tasha Port
Gail Ross
Penny Ryder
Kirk Westphal, Washtenaw Toastmasters
Ann Whaley
Catherine Zudak, Pass the Hat Productions

This project was dedicated to the memory of *Susan Constance Strong*
(March 6, 1954 – November 18, 2015)

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Writing coach sees dream come to fruition

by Lisa Powers

Groundcover Contributor

I had been living out-of-state for nearly a decade when I moved back and discovered Groundcover News had hit the ground and was off and running! It makes me proud to see these hard-working distributors – many of whom I recognize as contributors – every time I read the monthly issues and semi-annual “special editions.”

I’m proud of these determined individuals, working their way back into stability, and I’m pleased that members of our community pause for a moment on their way to work – or as they dash to catch lunch, or walking to a class at the Y – to buy a paper or donate, to smile and to express how much they care. On my weekday strolls to my campus office, I say hi, make a donation and thank the people who are standing in the hot sun trying to sell just one more paper before they allow themselves a break. I hope they know the people of Ann Arbor are glad they are here.

It wasn’t always the case. I remember that when I worked with homeless individuals on a photography and writing workshop called “Photovoice,” 20 years ago this summer, our community had a harsher attitude toward the homeless. There was a movement to drive them out of downtown, and into a new shelter that was planned for the outskirts of a nearby township – a long way from the streets where they had some hope of making a small living, meeting friends and helping each other out, and eating a daily breakfast at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, which still provides that healthy, wholesome start to the day for hundreds of our most vulnerable.

The September 1997 edition of the former monthly alternative newspaper, *Agenda*, featured both the political struggle over where to place the new shelter and a piece I wrote about the Photovoice workshop “Language of Light,” which I co-led with Photovoice creator Dr. Caroline Wang, a UM Public Health professor at the time. The project was funded by a small but life-changing Michigan Council for the Arts & Cultural Affairs grant. The Photovoice workshop taught nearly a dozen men and women from the homeless shelter how to take photographs and write about them, as a means of document-

ing their lives. The technique, widely practiced now but new then, has since helped thousands of people around the globe to gain a voice and means of expression typically unavailable to them, as members of minority or stigmatized communities.

My hope in holding the Photovoice workshop 20 years ago was to build the skills of photographers who could then contribute to a newsletter for the homeless to publish – a dream that over my absence became Groundcover News. Returning to this town which I’ve been blessed to call “home” since 1981, I was grateful to be back to a place where all members of our society are valued and respected.

Then something equally wonderful happened – my friend Madeline Strong Diehl devised a holistic writing approach that she hoped to teach to individuals who worked for Groundcover – as both a way to encourage their writing and to guide them in learning how writing can be a healing act, too, when practiced in a mindful, appreciative way.

She asked me and several other mutual friends to help her with the workshop, as writing coaches, and throughout the past several months I’ve been honored that a handful of participants trusted us with their stories, some of which they are willing to share with Groundcover audiences, too. (Watch for some in this and the next issue, as the workshops wrap up!)

I was introduced to Matt, a young man who spun out a poem in his first workshop. It could have been a song, it was almost danceable with a strong pulse. I wasn’t sure where I could improve his work – if all the students were this expressive, my volunteer work as a writing coach would be easy, I thought. My instinct was to encourage Matt to keep writing – and keep dreaming, as his poem was a reminder to play and to aim high.

Later, I started coaching a frequent contributor to Groundcover – appropriately named “Lit,” which I immediately imagined must stand for “Literature,” so articulate and eloquent she was. She hoped to gain an editor for her collection of pieces, which she dreamed of assembling into a book so more people



Workshop staff and participants, front to back: Madeline Strong Diehl, Joe Woods, Susan Beckett, Lisa Powers, Lit Kurtz, Hugh Shirato and Matt White.

could learn her story and the inspiration it holds, and I raised my hand to help be her guide.

Another writer, Joe, had leadership quality written all over him, and in fact

he holds a manager position with the paper. He’d only begun to experience the potency of writing, and the memories it brought up kind of shook him up,

see PHOTVOICE, page 11

Poverty Here?

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Finding a home for Common Cycle in Ann Arbor

by **Andrew Westphal**
Groundcover Contributor

After seven years of mobile repairs and instruction, Common Cycle, Ann Arbor's non-profit mobile bicycle co-op, is searching for a permanent home. This space will provide an opportunity for the organization to serve more community members by offering more frequent and diverse programs.

The organization was founded in 2010 with the hard work of a half-dozen dedicated volunteers and funding from a Kickstarter campaign. The Mobile Repair Stand (MRS) is the mainstay of Common Cycle's work, and it makes bike repair resources accessible to all members of the community at no cost. At the MRS, volunteers help visitors diagnose and repair their bicycles, as well as teach general repair and safety tips. Through this weekly, volunteer-run event, which takes place during the Artisan Market on Sundays in Kerrytown, Common Cycle has seen sustained interest in their educational approach to bike repair.

A broad spectrum of the community patronizes the MRS – including families, recreational bikers, and folks who depend on bicycles for transportation. University of Michigan student Emily Nash has brought two bikes to the repair stand.

"Some folks here helped me get them back to being rideable," Nash said. When asked what she would do if she didn't have Common Cycle she responded, "I would probably have to spend a lot of money on tools or even buy a new bike. I'm a student so it's super-helpful for me."

María Sánchez originally got involved with Common Cycle when she received a long-term bike loan from them. She said, "Thank you so much for helping me get on my feet here in AA; having a bike certainly made a difference!"

María has since refurbished a bike of her own, a project which was possible thanks to the tools at Common Cycle, and went on to become a volunteer.

Many new volunteers, such as Sánchez, get involved because of "curiosity and desire

to learn" about bicycles, which she referred to as "a method of transportation that has given me great experiences throughout my life." After participating in Common Cycle's biannual maintenance course, she began attending the MRS as an apprentice. Through those efforts, she had the opportunity to continue learning repair skills. Sánchez hopes that her presence as a woman volunteer will "give other girls and women the opportunity to feel empowered to get their hands dirty and fix their bikes." Empowerment is the key factor in Common Cycle's work, with the idea that when riders know how to fix their own bicycles, they will feel more confident riding. Once someone knows how to pump a flat tire or adjust their brakes, for example, riding out of the neighborhood to visit the grocery store is significantly less daunting.

To continue growing these programs, Common Cycle is now seeking a permanent physical space for its operations. An ideal location would be in or near downtown Ann Arbor, to make access by bicycle safe and convenient, with roughly 2,000 square feet for storage and programming. The nonprofit's board now includes nine dedicated members, with an additional 500-plus individuals connected through the organization's email list and Facebook page. Board member Brad Parsons expressed his hope that "a physical space will mean that we can do so much more" to serve this existing community and reach many new riders.

In addition to increased frequency of public workshop hours and classes, Common Cycle hopes to begin offering a youth earn-a-bike program. This type of program is typical of community bicycle shops, such as Back Alley Bikes in Detroit.



Common Cycle volunteers Andrew Westphal (right) and Nate Phipps (background, left) teach visitors the basics of bicycle repair (July, 2017). Photo: Ian Ogden

Community bicycle shops or cooperatives often serve as central gathering places for bicyclists in their area, and

and inquiries and offers can be addressed to info@commoncycle.org.

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Catching up with Svea Gray – the “Breakfast Church lady”

by **David KE Dodge**
Groundcover Contributor

The Reverend Svea Blomquist Gray is an octogenarian who has lived in Ann Arbor at various periods, and for the most part continuously since 1982, with her husband of now 58 years, Whit Gray, whom she met at Interlochen in 1954. After receiving a Baccalaureate in Music from the University of Michigan in 1957, Svea began pursuing a degree at the seminary at Princeton. Svea and Whit married in December, 1958. They raised a family in various parts of the world, including China, Japan and Germany, as a result of Whit's career as a law scholar specializing in the legal systems of different countries, and with command of eight foreign languages.

Early in September 1982, Svea resumed regular attendance of services at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Ann Arbor, and on the same Sunday, she volunteered to help at the then-nascent Breakfast Program at that church. By August 1985, she was head of the staff for that program.

Also in September 1982, Svea resumed pursuit of her Divinity studies, completing coursework through the Whitaker School of Theology, of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan. In June 1985, she was ordained at St. Andrew's as a deacon in the Episcopal Church.

Svea continued to serve as Deacon at St. Andrew's, as well as leader of the Breakfast Program, until her retirement in September 2012. By that time, many of the Washtenaw County homeless people had come to fondly regard her

as the personification of the community of compassion exemplified by the Breakfast Program. I met with Svea twice in March 2017 to learn of her activities since her retirement. What follows are excerpts of what I learned at our second meeting with questions posed by me and answers supplied by Svea Gray.

Q: You told me that you and Whit were not “snowbirds.” Have you taken any major trips since your retirement? Where?

A: Whit and I travel a lot, including cruises. We've been to China, Japan, England and Germany, among other destinations.

Q: The three of us agreed that Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti had much to offer seniors in the way of amenities and services. “Elderwise” was one such program, mentioned by Whit. Have you also availed yourself of that and other programs? Describe some of what you have done along those lines.

A: In addition to Elderwise, Whit and I have enjoyed many good lectures and day-trips offered by Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Michigan.

Q: Do you do much reading? What?

A: Historical fiction, mainly. I used to read a lot of theology, because I taught a Bible study class [at St. Andrew's] of the lessons that were coming up the next Sunday, and so I had to prepare for that. But I love to read; I read poetry, but I read mostly historical fiction, and other reading, where I feel like I'm

learning things.

Q: Do you have any hobbies?

A: Not particularly. Just keeping house. I guess I would call reading a hobby. I write letters. I think I'm one of the few left.

Q: Do children live near? Any grandchildren? Great-grandchildren?

A: Whit and I have six grandchildren through our adopted son in New Mexico, and our daughter and her partner live with their adopted daughter in Ann Arbor. None of our grandchildren are blood relatives, but that doesn't diminish our mutual affection. It's no big deal. We have no great-grandchildren.

Q: Are the “golden years” golden? You walk with the help of a cane. How is your health, generally?

A: My health is day-by-day; generally, good.

Q: You told me that you missed seeing the people who participated in the Breakfast Program. Maybe you'd like to put that into your own words.

A: I miss the spirit of the guests I met through the years. I remember what I call “The Door Opening Experience.” The glass doors at that time had a lock that could only be opened by kneeling down at the floor level and needed to be switched manually. It became a ritual – but in a way I never believed. The truth was, I had to kneel each morning before all those guests outside the door to open it, and it became to me a holy moment – especially as I got to know the guests and experience their friendship.

It became a moment of prayer – for them and for me.

Q: Do you have any advice to give to a youth who feels a call to minister to the church?

A: No. You have to be called.

Q: How do you feel about the world we're leaving the people who are coming behind us – the high school graduates and the people being born today; in particular, compared to the one we or you inherited?

A: Well, I'm optimistic about the new generation. This is a difficult time for our government; I'm not pleased with everything that's going on in Washington, but I think there's a great spirit in young people, and I particularly know some of Taylor's [the Chinese granddaughter] friends at Community High. They're quite impressive young people, and many of them have taken an interest in the Breakfast Program. So I'm optimistic that the good will flourish.

Q: What questions remain unasked that you'd like to answer? What else would you like the readers to know?

A: Nothing I did was out of the ordinary – I merely was able to participate in the lives of the people in difficult situations – and I gained by their friendship. This August 16, 2017, the Breakfast Program will celebrate 35 years, thanks to volunteers, donors and guests!

There will be a public celebration of the Breakfast Church anniversary at St. Andrew's on September 24 after the 10 a.m. service.

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Boober Tours miracles continue unfolding with a boost from United Way

by Kevin Spangler
Groundcover Vendor #307

The summer is going great for Boober! In last month's article, I mentioned that donors of \$5,000 toward another pedicab would receive two years of advertising, valued at \$12,000. United Way contacted me and ended up donating \$6,000. This is incredible!

I ordered the new cab but they take two months to make. Then I looked at my phone and saw on a social media website that a guy was selling four cabs that

were barely used. Thanks to United Way's amazing budgeting class, I have been saving every cent for investing in Boober. With my savings, I was able to get two top-of-the-line cabs with all the bells and whistles, including all weather canopies, plus one more thanks to the United Way donation.

Amazing doors are opening for Boober every day. I attribute these amazing things to changing my life around and making one right decision after another with the focus in mind to helping the world on a massive scale. I have been

growing at a perfect speed and soon these doors will open and Boober will grow at a speed that would sound like a dream to most companies. I will be breaking all barriers in the next three to seven years. The Boober app I'm creating is moving slower than anticipated but a door will soon open for all the hard work that has been put in during the last year-and-a-half.

In March, I got a loan of \$2,200 so I could buy an additional cab because I did not have enough cabs for all the advertising I had sold. I made the last

payment this month so Boober Tours is debt-free.

I was originally looking for investors to get this app off the ground. Nobody wanted to take a chance on me but I kept working. I kept focusing on my goals. My persistence is working. I constantly focus on what value can I add to myself, Boober, and most importantly, the community by providing safe transport to locals and people from out of town. With these focuses in place, I am working on making Ann Arbor more vibrant.

November elections: new property tax for public safety and mental health services?

by The CivCity Initiative
CivCity.org

Voters will decide the fate of this proposal on Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017. Anyone who owns property in Washtenaw County would pay the new tax. The new 1 mill tax would raise an estimated \$15 million each year. It would be levied for eight years, starting in December 2018. A "mill" equals 1/1,000 of a dollar. The tax you pay is based on your property's value. For example, if your property is worth \$100,000, then this new tax would cost you \$100 each year.

The money raised by the proposed

tax would be spent in three ways:

- 38 percent would go to the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office for public safety services.
- 38 percent would go to the Washtenaw County Community Mental Health Department. They provide services for the mentally ill.
- 24 percent would be divided among local police forces in the cities of Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Milan, Saline and Ypsilanti, as well as in Pittsfield and Northfield Townships.

Look for more details on the millage in the October edition of Groundcover.

ELECTION INFO

Voter Registration:

You can vote in the Nov. 7, 2017 election if you are registered. You must register by Tuesday, Oct. 10.

You must be:

- A U.S. citizen
- At least 18 years old by Election Day
- A resident of Michigan
- A resident of the city or township where you want to register to vote.

Resources:

Michigan Voter Information Center: michigan.gov/vote

CivCity Nonpartisan Voter Guide: AnnArborVotes.org

League of Women Voters: Vote411.org

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YOUR VOTE

Sudoku ★★☆☆☆ 4puz.com

2		7	3	5			9	
					8	1		
	4		2					7
8	5					6		1
	6			8			3	
9		2					4	8
7					5		8	
		4	8					
	8			6	3	2		5

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.



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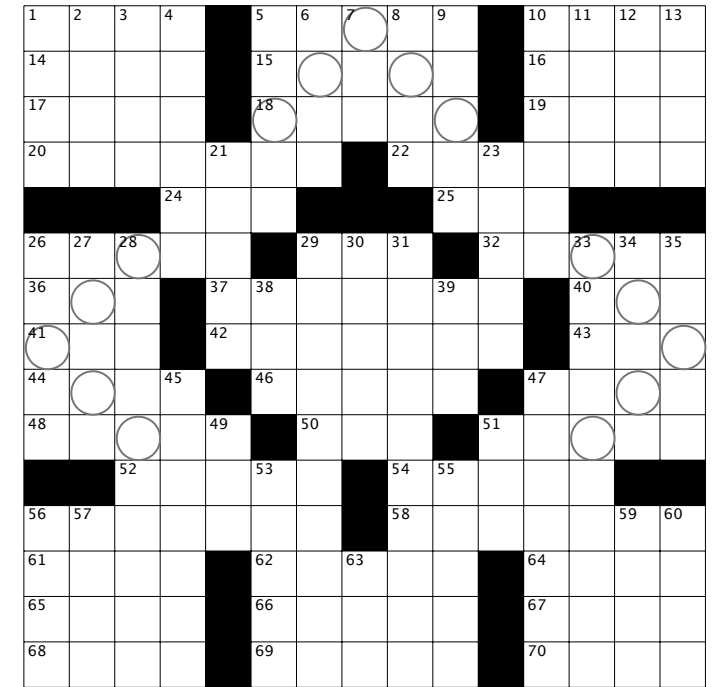
On the Rebound Peter A. Collins

ACROSS

- Granite hunk
- Biblical patriarch
- Somewhat
- Tijuana tip
- Rapid transit?
- "Joshua Judges ___" (Lyle Lovett album)
- Pearl Harbor locale
- Pandora bracelet bauble
- School trouble-maker?
- D.C. squad, for short
- Killer Bee portrayer on SNL
- Walgreens competitor
- Reconciliation recitation
- Host
- Glaswegian's "gee"
- 1750, to Caesar
- Berne's river
- Disconnected, in a way
- ___-tzu (Chinese philosopher)
- Ham holder
- For ___ sake
- Abbr. on a JFK board
- Diluvial mariner
- Liquid or solid
- Barry Sanders, for his entire career
- Knight gown?
- Buckingham Palace initials
- Motown records, originally
- Roulette bet
- Eleniak of "Baywatch"
- Down-and-outer's hang-out
- Agrees to a new contract
- Years, in Latin
- Nevada/California border lake
- Element #10
- Valentine's Day bloom
- Icy
- Home loan org.
- They might swing among the trees?
- Staff members?
- Flight component?

DOWN

- Word with black or beauty
- Access Remini of "The King of Queens"



© Peter A. Collins (Published via Across Lite)

- Court great Arthur
- With 10-Down, drift aimlessly (and an apt title for this puzzle)
- They earn int.
- Scrooge outbursts
- It's found stranded in a cell
- Eye test option
- Some Pinterest postings
- See 4-Down
- Lab coat problems?
- Rash reaction
- Asian cuisine
- Some old Chevy subcompacts
- Moscow mule garnishes
- ___ living
- City boss
- Beauty aisle buy
- Bizarre (and a hint to the some of the circled letters)
- Defibrillation exclamation
- Go ballistic (and a hint to some of the circled letters)
- Insurance company employee
- 2015 Cate Blanchett/Rooney Mara film
- "___ Doone"
- Some musical notes
- Science guy Bill
- Cold weather casual wear
- Gretzky's team for eight yrs.
- Capek sci-fi play (that coined the word "robot")
- "My country, ___ of thee"
- Scored the median, maybe
- Boating hazards
- ___ Lee (baked good brand)
- Fort ___ (gold depository site)
- Iditarod terminus
- Onesie fastener
- Ground breaking invention?

Bethlehem United Church of Christ



423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 * 734-665-6149

Bethlehem-ucc.org
facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2

Bethlehem Church is home of the Groundcover office

SEPTEMBER 2017 EVENTS:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| September 4 | Labor Day, Church office closed |
| September 7 | Bethlehem Prayer Circle, 11:30-12:15 |
| September 9 | German Pretzel Sales, 10:30 – 12 p.m. \$1 or \$10 dozen |
| September 9, 16 | Football Parking fundraiser at Bethlehem |
| September 10 | Flu Shot Clinic at Bethlehem, 7:45-10:30 p.m. |
| September 10 | Sunday school Kick-Off |
| September 17 | Cake Auction fundraiser, 11:15 a.m. |
| September 21 | Bethlehem Prayer Circle, 11:30-12:15 |
| September 29 | German Pretzel Sales, 11:00-2:00 p.m. \$1 or \$10 dozen |



Sunday Worship Times
8:30 a.m. Chapel
10:00 a.m. Sanctuary
10:15 a.m. Sunday school
Coffee Connection follows each service



St. Francis of Assisi Parish

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Come Worship with Us!

Mass Schedule
Saturday 5 pm
Sunday 7 am, 8:30 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm, 5 pm & 7pm (Spanish Mass)



Penance & Prayers for Peace
Thursday, October 12,
(9:15am Mass) **10am - 10pm** (priests available)
This is a full-day of very special prayers, songs, music, services for peace presented by choirs and groups of children and adults.

2250 East Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor
www.StFrancisA2.com 734-821-2100

GROUNDCOVER VENDOR CODE

While Groundcover News is a nonprofit organization and newspaper vendors are considered contracted self-employees, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:

- Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$2, or the face value of the paper. I agree not to ask for more than face value or solicit donations by any other means.
- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will not sell to or buy papers from other Ground-

cover News vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.

- I agree to treat all customers, staff and other vendors respectfully. I will not "hard sell," threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover News and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.
- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover News.
- I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.
- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.

If you see any Groundcover News vendors not abiding by the code of conduct, please report the activity to:
contact@groundcovernews.com
(734) 707-9210



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—MICAH 6:8

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Millz Billz Trillz

by Chris Splash
Groundcover Contributor

His life statement let an ass tell it
foolish minds sell short their own worth
such valued knowledge
better keep safe rather than sell it
marked down like price tags
asses sell thoughts on their shirts
The ass brags of riches and treasures amassed
daunting the fears of squalor
they pass noses in air
see but don't care
trampling over the scholar
too important to notice
nor do they share
reveling in the power of wallets
emptiness they hide never subsides hardly
compares
hardship bears gifts to the humble
and there are riches in struggle
it's these little values money can't buy
and can never be salvaged once lost
tis in gaining we lose in the savings of fools
for the banking of souls bears a cost
only the soulless are homeless
cuz the heart is where home is
you can have all the riches and still be the
brokest



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2	1	7	3	5	6	8	9	4
3	9	5	7	4	8	1	6	2
6	4	8	2	1	9	3	5	7
8	5	3	9	7	4	6	2	1
4	6	1	5	8	2	7	3	9
9	7	2	6	3	1	5	4	8
7	2	6	1	9	5	4	8	3
5	3	4	8	2	7	9	1	6
1	8	9	4	6	3	2	7	5

Powerless

by Ben Basset
Groundcover Vendor #417

You see me weak
Yet wonder why
As if I chose to live to die.
Would you help me if I chose to lie?
Or should I spit, kick and cry?
A dollar's all I need to buy
A ticket far away from eyes.
You don't know me
Yet claim you do;
Why don't I just get a job?
I've got nothing left to sell
You say you just don't understand
But act like you know me so well.
As for the sign, it may be true
There's not that much difference,
between me and you.

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**Free 30 min. Consultation
with this Ad**

Photovoice workshop becomes a reality with Celebrating Our Right to Write

continued from page 5

but he was determined to keep writing
and healing.

"He's on his journey," I thought the last
time I ran into him selling Groundcov-

er, still very excited about the potential
for writing to change his life.

We've only just started down the path
beyond the workshop's introductory
phase, but I look forward to seeing Lit's

dream come true, and Matt's contin-
ued growth and Joe's healing through
writing. The next time you purchase
Groundcover News, remember: you
hold the key to many people's dreams,

too. Give them a thumbs-up and an ex-
tra dollar or two – it's money well-spent
and encouragement well-deserved. And
a little encouragement goes a long way
toward healing hurts and moving
dreams forward.

Remembering Arrell Coleman

continued from page 3

cerned about its senior citizens or even
its homeless. But we, as a society, seem
to have the luxury of selective caring.

Many of those who knew Coleman
were former employees of Coleman En-
terprises, the cleaning business that he
started in Ann Arbor after leaving Gen-
eral Motors. While working at General
Motors he obtained a degree from East-
ern Michigan University. Prior to these
careers, Coleman worked on the Trans-

Alaska Pipeline in northern Alaska just
after graduating from Eastern High
School in Washington, D.C.

Coleman's last days were spent with the
quiet dignity that many had come to ex-
pect from him. Resigned to his plight,
he routinely attended his dialysis treat-
ment and just before evening walked
with cardboard in hand to the place
where he would spend nights outside
for the remaining days of his life.

His passing is a poignant reminder of

the forgotten crisis and the toll it is tak-
ing on the senior population as well as
on the rest of the society.

The legacy of Arrell Coleman, Jr. in-
cludes his two daughters, DeAnna
Coleman of Upper Marlboro, Md. and
Leanne Coleman of Ann Arbor, Mich.;
one son, Arrell III of New York, N.Y.;
one granddaughter, India Coleman of
Upper Marlboro, Md.; two sisters, Paula
C. Machen (Charles) of Flatrock, N.C.
and Nola Valary Coleman of Crofton,

Md.; three brothers, Paul W. of Wash-
ington, D.C., James E. Laurel of Md.
and Bishop Dr. Benjamin Coleman
Caldwell (Pamela) of Woodbury, N.J.;
two aunts, Margaret Collins and Ella
Mae Stewart of Washington, D.C.; one
sister-in-law, Terri Coleman of Bloom-
field Hills, Mich.; and a host of nieces,
cousins, and friends.

For those wishing to express condo-
lences to the family or sign the guest
book, please go to legacy.com and type
in Arrell Coleman.



Welcoming Week
September 15-24



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Sept. 15-24, 2017

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fully embrace newcomers & their contributions
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Size	Black and White	Color	Approx. Size
Business card	\$49.95	\$65.95	3.5 X 2
1/8	\$89.95	\$129.95	2.5 X 6.5 or 5 X 3.25
1/6	\$129.95	\$165.95	5 X 5
1/4	\$159.95	\$215.95	5 X 6.5
1/2	\$299.95	\$399.95	5 X 14 or 10 X 6.5
Full Page	\$495.95	\$669.95	10 X 14

Three Months/Three Issues: 15% off

Six Months/Six Issues: 25% off

Full Year/Twelve Issues: 35% off

Additional 20% off ads with coupons

Peach crumble

by Elizabeth Bauman
Groundcover Contributor

Ingredients:

3 pounds peaches, peeled and sliced
1 stick butter, melted
1/4 cup strawberry jam
1 tablespoon ginger
1/2 teaspoon salt

Topping:

1 cup flour
1/2 cup white sugar
1/2 cup brown sugar
2 cups oatmeal
1 cup butter, room temperature
2 teaspoons cinnamon
2 teaspoons cardamom

Directions:

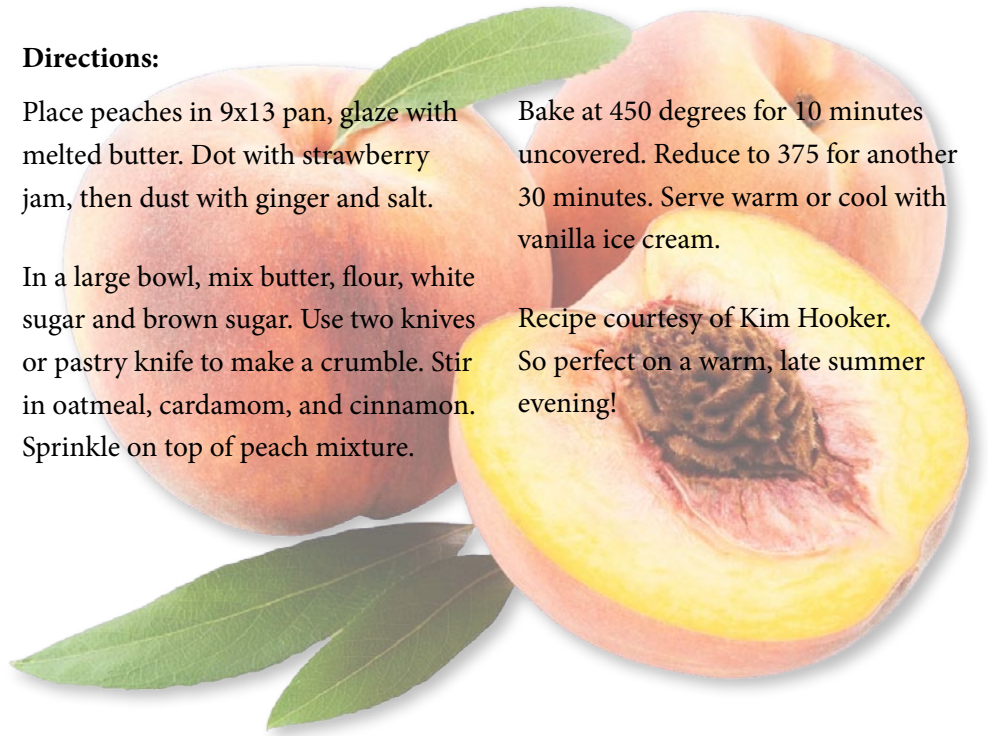
Place peaches in 9x13 pan, glaze with melted butter. Dot with strawberry jam, then dust with ginger and salt.

In a large bowl, mix butter, flour, white sugar and brown sugar. Use two knives or pastry knife to make a crumble. Stir in oatmeal, cardamom, and cinnamon. Sprinkle on top of peach mixture.

Bake at 450 degrees for 10 minutes uncovered. Reduce to 375 for another 30 minutes. Serve warm or cool with vanilla ice cream.

Recipe courtesy of Kim Hooker.

So perfect on a warm, late summer evening!



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OFFER EXPIRES 9/30/2017

Strange (but Mostly True) Stories About a Mother and her Daughter • Cy Klone © 2017

What do you mean I should do something special for his birthday?

Look, you've finally gotten up the nerve to sit in his lap - now that you're comfortable with that, don't you think you're ready for the next step?

I can't believe you said that!!!

You know I'm right. A little nuzzling your head against his never hurt anyone. Haven't I proven that by example?

Maybe you're forgetting that I can't bring myself to rub my head anywhere above his armpits!

Trust me, mom, I'm well aware of how truly weird you are.

What makes you think I can do this?

I dunno, maybe knowing you have a habit of making a big deal out of trivial things only to see you admit later how insignificant they really were?